

Down with corporate control of the media - the FCC is supposed to protect us
taxpaying public not rich corporations

I am writing to you today to comment on Docket No. 02-277, The Biennial Review of
the FCC's broadcast media ownership rules.

In seeing two stories on Bill Moyer's NOW show, I was shocked to see how
little this issue is getting attention from the national media.
To me, this is a no-brainer issue. More media mergers will further
degrade the standards of journalism in this country and will play into a
need for ratings versus balanced journalism. Less competition will also
drive up consumer prices for cable and maybe even advertising. Moreover,
consolidation will bring layoffs for many hardworking people in the media
- particularly those interested in exposing the dark side of corporations
and federal bureaucracy as opposed to just covering whatever the lowest
common denominator in our society craves at any given moment.

I did try to apply directly to the FCC with my e-mailed comments about a
month or so ago, but after a week received a letter thanking me that
provided an additional 5 or so pages of complicated detailed instructions
for me to file my comments and have them taken seriously.

I was incensed that my e-mail was not forwarded to the proper people at
the FCC as I had requested. It was exceptionally straightforward in what
it was addressing and would have only taken two seconds to pass on to the
right people. How on earth, is the average working individual supposed to
have time to follow all of these rules and instructions that are geared
toward lawyers and lobbyists?

The FCC is a government agency paid for by my federal taxes and that of my
fellow Americans. Its purpose is to protect my interests and the public
at large. It is not supposed to make things easy for the monstrous
profit-hungry media industry to engage in further take-overs.

I want the FCC to slow down and stop blowing off the average concerned
consumer. Without us tuning in, there is no television audience and that
includes T.V. news coverage. Lately, I've been dismayed at how
journalists are playing into the hands of big corporations and turning a
blind eye (like on this issue) regarding government policies that are
potentially harmful.

Similarly, without our tax monies there is no FCC, and if the FCC is not
going to protect the airwaves and make television stations fulfill their
responsibilities for public education, protection, and such then I see no
reason for the FCC to have continued existence through my tax dollar.

In its goals to promote competition, diversity and localism in today's
media market, I strongly believe that the FCC should retain all of the
current media ownership rules now in question. These rules serve the
public interest by limiting the market power of already huge companies in
the broadcast industry. Conservatives and liberals alike are concerned by
the effect of monopolies emerging as they did in the last half of the
nineteenth century with the railroad and other industries. With further
deregulation, a similar type of environment would undoubtedly emerge.

I do not believe that the studies commissioned by the FCC accurately
demonstrate the negative affects media deregulation and consolidation have
had on media diversity. While there may be indeed be more sources of

media than ever before, the spectrum of views presented have become more limited.

With the serious impact these rule changes will have on our democracy, it is incumbent on the Commission to take the time to review these issues more thoroughly and allow the American people to have a meaningful say in the process.

Thank you,

Elizabeth D. Thompson

A concerned citizen who values freedom of communication and speech in our great country